

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 PM-03 INR-05 NSC-05 L-01 SP-02

CIAE-00 /041 W  
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R 060753Z MAY 75  
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2985  
INFO WHITE HOUSE  
DOD  
JCS  
CINCPAC  
CINCPACAF

S E C R E T MANILA 5914

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, XC, US  
SUBJECT: ASEAN CONSULTATIONS WITH US

REF: MANILA 5702

1. REFTEL EXPRESSED VIEW THAT MUCH DUST WOULD HAVE TO SETTLE ON INDOCHINA PENINSULA BEFORE U.S. AND FRIENDLY SOUTHEAST ASIAN STATES COULD UNDERTAKE EFFECTIVE REASSESSMENT OF POLICY IN THIS AREA. THIS SETTLING PROCESS, IN MY ESTIMATE, MAY TAKE A FEW MONTHS BEFORE MATTERS BECOME CLEAR.

2. ONE OF ISSUES WHICH WILL FORM AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN CONSIDERATIONS TO BE CONFRONTED AT THAT TIME WILL BE U.S. MILITARY DEPLOYMENTS IN THE PHILIPPINES. THIS SUBJECT WILL ALSO, OF COURSE, BE A MATTER FOR DIRECT BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE PHILIPPINES.

3. THIS MESSAGE IS AN EFFORT TO PROVIDE A FEW PRELIMINARY THOUGHTS ON THE BASES FOR THOSE WHO ARE CHARGED WITH  
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PREPARING THE PAPERWORK PRECEDENT TO THE REASSESSMENT

PROCESS. THESE THOUGHTS HAVE ALREADY BEEN DISCUSSED WITH UNDER SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE PLUMMER AND DENNIS DOOLIN, WHO VISITED MANILA MAY 5.

4. IN GENERAL, IT IS ASSUMED THAT THE U.S. NAVAL FACILITIES AT SUBIC BAY AND THE NAVAL AIR STATION AT CUBI POINT WILL CONTINUE TO BE REQUIRED FOR U.S. STRATEGIC PURPOSES IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC AND WELL AS THE INDIAN OCEAN.

5. ON THE OTHER HAND, WITH THE COLLAPSE OR WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. PRESENCE AND/OR RESPONSIBILITIES ON MAINLAND SOUTHEAST ASIA, THERE DOES NOT RPT NOT APPEAR TO BE AN EXCLUSIVELY AMERICAN RATIONALE FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF U.S. AIR FACILITIES AT CLARK AIR BASE. THE ONLY LOGICAL AIR FORCE DEPLOYMENT AT THAT FACILITY, IN NEWLY CHANGED CIRCUMSTANCES, WOULD BE U.S. FIGHTER INTERCEPTOR UNITS, PROVIDED FOR THE EXPLICIT PURPOSE OF ASSISTING IN THE AIR DEFENSE OF THE PHILIPPINES UNDER OUR MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY. IT WOULD BE ASSUMED THAT SUCH UNITS WOULD BE DEPLOYED ONLY IF GOP EXPLICITLY REQUESTS THEM, AND IT WOULD SEEM LOGICAL THAT THEY SHOULD BECOME TENANTS ON A PHILIPPINE CONTROLLED CLARK AIR BASE, IN MUCH THE SAME WAY AS U.S. UNITS WERE DEPLOYED TO MACTAN DURING THE HEIGHT OF THE VIET-NAM WAR.

6. IF THESE ASSUMPTIONS CAN BE ACCEPTED AS U.S. POLICY, THEY SHOULD MAKE OUR FUTURE TASK OF DEALING WITH THE MILITARY BASE ISSUE IN THE PHILIPPINES TRACTABLE, AND SHOULD PUT OUR MUTUAL DEFENSE ARRANGMENTS HERE ON A REALISTIC FOOTING.

7. I DO NOT RPT NOT EXPECT A CONSIDERED REPLY TO THIS MESSAGE BECAUSE OF ITS OBVIOUS INVOLVEMENT WITH THE LARGER SCOPE OF REASSESSMENT TO BE UNDERTAKEN IN WASHINGTON. HOWEVER, I AM SCHEDULED TO BE IN WASHINGTON FOR CONSULTATIONS IN THE FIRST WEEK OF JULY AND WOULD HOPE THAT PREPARATORY WORK WILL HAVE MATURED TO THE POINT WHERE CONCRETE DISCUSSIONS CAN TAKE PLACE AT THAT TIME.

SULLIVAN

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NNN

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